

NWS Form E-5 U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE <b>MONTHLY REPORT OF RIVER AND FLOOD CONDITIONS</b>	<b>HYDROLOGIC SERVICE AREA:</b> <b>Pocatello, Idaho</b>
	<b>REPORT FOR:</b> <b>MONTH: December YEAR: 2004</b>
<b>TO:</b> Hydrologic Operations Division, W/OH2 National Weather Service National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Silver Spring, Maryland 20910	<b>SIGNATURE</b> Sherrie Hebert: (In Charge of Hydrologic Service Area) <b>DATE</b> January 11, 2005
When no flooding occurs, include miscellaneous river conditions, such as significant rises, record low stages, ice conditions, snow cover, droughts and hydrologic products issued (NWS Instruction 10-924).	

<b>X</b>	<b>An X in this box indicates that no flooding has occurred for the month within this hydrologic service area.</b>
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December brought slightly above average precipitation to Eastern Idaho. However, the distribution of average precipitation was heavily weighted by a few stations receiving more than double normal precip and a few with less than half of normal. December's average precipitation amounts and November's very low amounts have done little to nothing to improve the drought situation that has plagued the west since 2000.

### Other Hydrologic Interests

#### **Precipitation**

December precipitation for the Pocatello HSA was 117.4% of normal for 41 of 42 reporting stations with climate data, according to Western Region Climate Center data. Of those stations, 21 received 100% or greater than normal precipitation, with two receiving greater than 200%, which were Oakley with 247.47% and Mackay at 227.3%. Those stations receiving less than 50% of normal are below.

Station Name	Precip (inches)	Percent of Normal
Challis	0.26	50.0
St. Anthony	0.62	43.1
Fort Hall	0.36	41.9
Swan Valley	0.44	33.6

The following December daily precipitation records were set in Eastern Idaho.

December 8:

Burley: 0.73 inches of precipitation broke the 1997 record of 0.19 inches

Stanley: 0.48 inches of precipitation broke the 1985 record of 0.45 inches

December 31:

Idaho Falls: 0.33 inches of precipitation broke the 1964 record of 0.12 inches

## Reservoirs

The Upper Snake River reservoir system is at 35% of capacity<sup>1</sup>, up 8% from December 14, 2004.

<b>Reservoir</b>	<b>% Capacity November 30<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>% Capacity December 31<sup>3</sup></b>	<b>Percent Change</b>	<b>% of Average<sup>3</sup></b>	<b>% of Last Year<sup>3</sup></b>
American Falls	31	45	14	76	123
Blackfoot	7	8	1	13	0
Henry's Lake	68	71	3	78	96
Island Park	44	52	8	73	104
Little Wood	25	34	9	72	112
Mackay	22	35	13	65	112
Magic	8	10	2	25	112
Oakley	10	13	3	39	149
Palisades	30	35	5	48	124
Ririe	36	38	2	88	110
Lake Walcott	18 <sup>4</sup>	19 <sup>5</sup>	1	n/a	n/a

Source: (1) US Bureau of Reclamation (BOR), January 11, 2005; (2) NRCS, November 30, 2004; (3) NRCS, December 31, 2004; (4) BOR, December 14, 2004; (5) BOR, January 11, 2005.

## Drought

Eastern Idaho closed the 2004 calendar year entirely in the D3, "Extreme" and D4, "Exceptional" categories on the US Drought Monitor. Low soil moisture, low SWSI values and above-normal temperature and below-normal precipitation outlooks leave little to no room for relief in the near future.

Emergency Drought Declarations for 2004 include all 17 Eastern Idaho counties of the 24 declared statewide. The first county declared was Clark County on April 14 and the most recent being Minidoka County on September 22.

## December 2004 Hydrologic Product Summary

Product	Number Issued
Flash Flood Warning	0
Flood Watch for Flash Flooding	0
Flood Warning	0
Flood Watch	0
Urban and/or Small Stream Flood Warning	0
Urban and/or Small Stream Flood Advisory	0
Flood Statement	0
Hydrologic Statement	0
Hydrologic Outlook	0
NOW or Special Weather Statement (with information related to flooding)	0
Local Storm Report related to flooding	0

cc: Melissa Smith, WFO Hydrology Program Manager  
Harold Opitz, HIC NWRFC  
Hydrometeorological Information Center  
Jim Meyer, MIC PIH  
Jay Breidenbach, SH BOI  
Greg Kaiser, Storm Data Focal Point PIH